Amendments to the Claims:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A method of processing ~~compensating for offset in~~ a received signal, the received signal being modified by a sequence of symbols, each symbol extending over T_s signal samples, comprising:

dividing the received signal into frames;

dividing each frame into a plurality of N_b sub-frames, wherein each sub-frame overlaps an adjacent sub-frame;

forming N_b sequences of values, the values being derived from the corresponding sub-frame within each frame; and

taking said N_b sequences as successive estimates of a frame sequence correctly aligned to the sequence of symbols.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein each frame is of predetermined length Ts.

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein there is an inter-frame overlap of an adjacent frame.

4. (cancelled)

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein N_b lies within the range 2 to 8.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the sequence of symbols comprises L_w symbols, the received signal being divided into L_F frames, wherein L_F is an integer multiple of L_w.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said sequence of symbols comprises a sequence of values convolved with a window shaping function that has a band limited frequency behavior and is smoothed according to a smoothing factor s_f.

8. (cancelled)

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said sequence of symbols comprises a sequence of at least one of raised cosine functions or bi-phase functions.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said offset is a time offset.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising processing each estimate as though it were the correctly aligned frame sequence for determining which estimate is a best estimate.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the best estimate is assumed to be a first estimate that, when processed, exceeds one or more predetermined conditions; said processing of estimates stopping once the best estimate has been determined.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising:

correlating each of said estimates with a reference corresponding to said sequence of symbols; and

taking the estimate with a maximum correlation peak value as the best estimate.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein once a first best estimate has been determined for a first signal or portion of a signal, the method is repeated for a further received signal or portion of a signal, the estimates from said further signal being processed in an order dependent upon said first best estimate.

15. (canceled)

16. (cancelled)

17. (canceled)

18. (previously presented) An apparatus arranged to compensate for offset in a received signal, the signal being modified by a sequence of symbols, each symbol extending over T_s signal samples, comprising:

a divider arranged to divide the received signal into frames;

a divider arranged to divide each frame into a plurality of N_b sub-frames, wherein each sub-frame overlaps an adjacent sub-frame; and

a processor arranged to form N_b sequences of values, the values being derived from the corresponding sub-frame within each frame; and to take said N_b sequences as successive estimates of a frame sequence correctly aligned with the sequence of symbols.

19. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 18, the apparatus further comprising a buffer arranged to store said N_b sequences.

20. (previously presented) A decoder arranged to compensate for offset in a received signal, the signal being modified by a sequence of symbols, each symbol extending over T_s signal samples, comprising:

a divider arranged to divide the received signal into frames;

a divider arranged to divide each frame into a plurality of N_b sub-frames, wherein each sub-frame overlaps an adjacent sub-frame; and

a processor arranged to form N_b sequences of values, the values being derived from the corresponding sub-frame within each frame; and to take said N_b sequences as successive estimates of a frame sequence correctly aligned with the sequence of symbols.